

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, we are some 11 weeks into a new Congress and still we have not seen a single bill focused on job creation from the other side of the aisle. What are they focused on? Allowing big polluters a free pass to pollute the air we breathe and poison the water we drink.

In the pockets of Big Oil and Big Polluters, Republicans are advancing the Dirty Air Act, a radical bill that would undo over four decades of public health, scientific advancement, and pollution standards. The Dirty Air Act would ban EPA from exercising its role as the protector of our air and as the protector of our water.

For decades, the Clean Air Act has protected children from asthma and seniors from emphysema, while reducing our dependence on foreign oil. It has created jobs, and we simply cannot undo it.

My friends on the other side of the aisle should be focussed on America's priorities, that being job creation and economic growth. Instead, they remain committed to the deep pockets of the dirty energy industry.

What is more important, public health for our children and seniors or lining the pockets of the oil industry? I think the choice is very clear. I rise today in support of the Clean Air Act.

THE FEDERAL BUDGET

(Ms. KAPTUR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to reiterate some statistics that I entered into the record earlier today as we try to balance the Federal budget. Let's look at who has the money.

If you look at the big banks from Wall Street that took us down this dangerous road, six banks—among them Citigroup, Goldman Sachs, JPMorgan Chase, Wells Fargo—made last year \$51.5 billion in profits. That's with a "B," billion. Today, the majority passed a few billion dollars in cuts, and they took it out of the hides of ordinary Americans who are paying the price of this recession. But imagine if you worked for a Wall Street bank and only had to pay an effective tax rate of 11.5 percent or 11 percent when most businesses in America have to pay 35 percent. They are getting a really good deal. We didn't nick their bonuses a penny, and the top executives walked home with \$26 million.

If you really want to ask yourself the question how to balance the budget, why don't we look at where the money really is, and none of that is on the table. And while you're paying those high gas prices, take a look at Exxon. They have the largest profits in American history: \$9 billion last year in one quarter. Paid no taxes.

American people, wake up.

JOB

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 5, 2011, the gentleman from California (Mr. GARAMENDI) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to talk about what's on the minds of the constituents in my district, and that's jobs. They're worried about the economy, they're worried about jobs, and they want to find an opportunity to get a job.

Unfortunately, it's actually 11 weeks since the Republicans took control of this House, and there's not been one job bill. The big bill that passed here 4 weeks ago was the continuing resolution for the year, and that piece of legislation actually disposed of 700,000 jobs. It was all couched in the terms of how we're going to solve the deficit, but the reality is you're not going to solve the deficit by making small cuts through multiple programs, and that's what it did. What it actually would have accomplished is to destroy 700,000 jobs here in America.

What we need to do is to take the long view. We need to look at the overarching problem, and we do have a deficit problem. Most of it, frankly, was created during the George W. Bush administration. If you look back to the year 2000 when the Clinton administration ended, there would have been, if the same policies had continued, a \$5 billion surplus. We would have wiped out the American debt. That didn't happen. Policies changed, two wars, tax reductions, and an incredible deficit, and the collapse of the American and the worldwide economy.

So where are we today? We're left with a problem. We're going to talk about that today.

I've asked my friend from New York (Mr. TONKO) to join us and my good friend from Illinois, JAN SCHAKOWSKY, to join us.

Mr. TONKO, if you would start us.

Mr. TONKO. Sure. Absolutely my pleasure, and, Mr. GARAMENDI, thank you for bringing us together during this coming hour so that we can address what is the most critical issue: the jobs and the economy.

The American public speaks out overwhelmingly to make certain that that is our highest priority here in Congress. In every public opinion survey that you have seen in the last several months, it's about jobs. It's the pledge that we have made since I've been here as a Member of this House. As Democrats in this House, we have been pushing the agenda for jobs. We believe there's no other higher priority.

I think of the 8.2 million jobs lost during the Bush recession when there was a willful neglect of the manufacturing sector, of the ag sector of our economy. It was dedicated and directed towards service sector, primarily the financial industry and the investment

community. We know what happened. There was not stewardship over that arena. There was not the sort of watchdog application, and we allowed for many people to be hurt by that painful recession, where their lifetimes' worth of savings were invested through portfolios of investment on Wall Street, and because of the greed, they got brought down, and people were left hurting, losing their homes, losing their lifetime savings, and 8.2 million jobs lost to this American economy.

So we have got to turn that around. We have begun carefully with the programs and the policies, working with this President, starting in the 111th Congress over a year or two ago where we made certain that jobs, jobs, jobs were the highest priority. We put together a package a policies that would make certain that we would grow jobs in America.

We began with some very strong efforts to invest, through the Recovery Act, in those industries that need that sort of launching, that we could somehow take this clean energy agenda, their industry, the innovation economy, and make it work for America, and that affects people in the elements of trades on over to the Ph.D.s. And we saw what happened. In the last year, for instance, 1.5 million jobs added from the private sector column. Now our friends want to put on this cut in domestic programs that every think tank has forewarned would cost us jobs. In fact, many are suggesting 700,000 jobs would be lost if these cuts to the domestic investments that are so important to America's working families would be allowed to have happen.

So we need to go forward with a very thoughtful plan that enables us to not only grow jobs, in fact, jobs not yet on the radar screen, but to grow jobs in a way that can allow us to compete, and compete effectively, on the global scene, in that global marketplace; because I agree with the President on this notion: Whoever wins this race on clean energy, the global race on innovation, will become the exporter of energy intellect, energy ideas, innovation.

We saw it happen decades ago with the global race on space, and America embraced that with passionate resolve and said we are going to win this race; we're going to invest. President Kennedy set a tone that was a winning tone. It engaged everybody. We worked as a team in this country. People came together in a bipartisan, spirited way, and all we talked about was investing in science and technology and engineering. And guess what? We won that race because we embraced it with passionate resolve. And it wasn't just the poetry of landing a person, an American, on the Moon first where he was quoted as saying, One small step for man; one giant step for mankind, but it was the unleashing of several elements of technology that pervaded every sector of development out there from